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1 JUN 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel

THRU: Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT: S. 3638, A Bill to Promote the Foreign Policy of the United States by Amending the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (Public Law 402, 80th Congress).

1. Subject bill is a consolidation of two previous proposals (S. 631 and S. 2410) submitted during the first session of the present Congress and certain executive branch requests for legislation which were submitted to the Congress in March 1956. This bill has two basic purposes: To provide a more effective educational exchange program with other nations and to provide a career personnel program for the United States Information Agency modeled after the career program of the Foreign Service of the Department of State.
2. The amendment proposed in this bill to Section 802 would provide authority to pay medical expenses and expenses for travel incurred by reason of illness for alien employees while assigned temporarily for duty outside the countries in which they reside or for participants in activities authorized by this act and to pay for accompanying medical attendants in such cases. It is noted that the Agency's authority for medical benefits for alien employees is applicable to those assigned to permanent duty stations outside the United States.
3. Section 1013 of this bill provides the Director of the United States Information Agency with authority for the establishment of examining and selection boards for the appointment, promotion, selection out and separation of United States Information Officers similar to that of the Secretary of State for Foreign Service Officers. It also provides that the Director may establish an independent retirement and disability system based on the Foreign Service Act. A Career system so closely allied to the Foreign Service of the Department of State would reduce obstacles in the event of a future merger of USIA with the Department of State and would also tend to reduce friction because of differing personnel systems among United States employees serving overseas.

SUBJECT: S. 3638, A Bill to Promote the Foreign Policy of the United States by Amending the United States Informational and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (Public Law 402, 80th Congress).

4. We believe the Committee on Foreign Relations strongly urged the Senate to approve this measure because USIA was formerly under the Department of State and the proposed career system for USIA being similar to that of the Foreign Service would facilitate any future merger of those organizations.



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Signed

Harrison G. Reynolds
Director of Personnel

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